

# *Horticulture Northwest*

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# Horticulture Northwest

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*Sallie D. Allen, Editor*

## CONTENTS

President's Letter . . . . .	45
Center for Urban Horticulture Update Dr. Harold B. Tukey, Jr. . . . .	47
New Friends for the Drug Garden Kathy Mendelson . . . . .	48
Herbal Soaps JoEllen Van De Mark . . . . .	50
Using Herbs to Free Your Home of Unwanted Pests Carolyn Rawe . . . . .	53
NOHS Nursery Snooper Pat Bender . . . . .	57
Shrubs that Merit Attention Mrs. Paul Sayre . . . . .	59
Welcome New Members . . . . .	60
Book Reviews . . . . .	61
Tidbits . . . . .	64



Cover Illustration

Micheal Moshier

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Members and Friends:

It is again the time of the year when it seems appropriate for us to consider, with justifiable pride, the accomplishments of the recent past and to look forward with interest and enthusiasm to the new year.

The Fall Plant Sale was the second one held on the grounds of the Center for Urban Horticulture and in conjunction with the CUH's open house. Both the sale and open house were highly successful, with the sale bigger and better and more horticultural groups taking part in the open house. Jean Wilcox's Plant Sale Committee turned in an excellent report with suggestions that will make next year's sale one to look forward to.

The 1985 Lecture Series, excellent all year, ended with the Perry Johanson memorial lecture with Roy Lancaster speaking to a packed house..... every seat taken. With a job well done, Marili Boyd turned her Program chairmanship over to Shirley Gorman, who with her committee, and with the generous support of their patrons, has another top-notch series planned for 1986.

Through the efforts of Betty Miller, the Education Fund continues to grow, and 1986 may well see it reach its primary goal of \$100,000. The earnings from this endowment fund will be used to promote horticultural education.

By the time this letter reaches you, Isaacson Hall will have been dedicated as part of the CUH complex. This beautiful new building will house the long-awaited NOHS office and provide a center for NOHS activities and services. A committee is presently working on the furnishings for the office, and UNICO has graciously contributed some of the basic furniture.

Some other things to look forward to in 1986 will be more excellent Journals from Editor, Sallie Allen, and her staff; a "Fern Festival" organized by Sue Olsen and her committee; and hopefully a newsletter to keep you up to date with NOHS activities.

The future holds continued responsibilities too; for the past five years, the NOHS has contributed \$10,000 each year toward the maintenance of the CUH's program, including salaries. 1985 was to have seen this need come to an end. However, these are critical times for the University and for the CUH as well. The NOHS Board received a letter from Dr. George Beckmann, Provost for the University of Washington, requesting that we continue our present level of support for the next four years.

Also, at this time the University is conducting a search for a new Curator of Plant Collections. It is everyone's hope that this position will be filled by a person with deserved international recognition. To help make this possible, the NOHS has been asked to contribute \$5,000 per year toward the salary for the position, which has to be both attractive and competitive to interest high-caliber applicants. This contribution is to last five years. The total request is for \$65,000 over the five-year period, at which time, Dr. Beckmann assures us, the program will be self-sustaining. The NOHS Board



carefully considered the request and assessed our potential for raising the money. Their decision was to accept the challenge and help provide a CUH staff and program of which we can all be proud.

Now for the hard part! The program and services provided by the NOHS are paid for by dues and solicitation for patrons. Dues, however, are the primary source of money. The Board has tried to hold the line on costs, but increases in secretarial services, printing and postage continue to rise. It was with reluctance that the Board decided to raise the dues five dollars per year for the first two categories of membership, bringing individual dues up to \$20 and group membership to \$25. We are confident that you will understand that the aforementioned support request to the CUH will be met by special projects, not by dues.

On behalf of the Officers and Board of the NOHS, I wish you all a happy and productive 1986.

John Putnam  
President



# NORTH AMERICAN HEATHER SOCIETY

(Founded as Pacific Northwest Heather Society)

The 1986 annual meeting of the Society will be held in the Napa Valley, California, February 18 and 19, 1986.

Included will be:

General meeting, plant auction and lunches, tours of horticultural interest, dinner and speakers.

To be hosted by:

Pacific Union College  
Angwin, California

Meals and Accommodations Available

For Information and Reservations, Contact:

Dr. Lloyd Eighme  
Pacific Union College  
Box 54  
Angwin, California 94508



# CENTER FOR URBAN HORTICULTURE

## Update

Dr. Harold B. Tukey, Jr., Professor and Director

Dr. Clement W. Hamilton has joined the Center faculty as Assistant Professor of Horticultural Taxonomy. He was born in Ohio, took his undergraduate degree at Harvard University in Geology, and received his Ph.D. degree from Washington University (St. Louis), working at the Missouri Botanical Garden. Dr. Hamilton spent a year in Thailand, where he started out as a geologist but became involved in the Herbarium at Prince of Songkla University, and returned home a botanist. During his graduate program, he also did field work for several months in Panama. At the Center, Dr. Hamilton is responsible for developing a graduate research program in the systematics of horticultural plants. A primary interest will be development of the Hyde Herbarium, only the second such facility concerned with horticulture. Some of Dr. Hamilton's research interests are high elevation plants from South America which may be introduced to Pacific Northwest gardens. Dr. Hamilton's wife, Karen, also has horticultural interests; she is a skilled botanical illustrator. Her daughter, Yanna, an eighth grader in the Seattle school system, completes the family. We welcome them to the Pacific Northwest.

In November, the Center was the recipient of a \$1 million gift from the estate of Neva Douglas, to design and construct the Douglas Research Conservatory, in memory of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John F. Douglas. The gift was arranged by James B. Douglas, well-known Seattle developer of Northgate, and other shopping malls, and his son, San Diego businessman, James C. Douglas. The Conservatory is named for the founder of the Metropolitan Building Company, the original developer of the University of Washington's Metropolitan Tract in downtown Seattle. The Conservatory will provide 5,000 square feet of greenhouse space, and 8,000 square feet of support facilities, including a teaching laboratory/classroom, office, research laboratories, workshops, growth chamber space, and a formal entry which will memorialize the donors. Design is by Jones & Jones, architectural firm, which did the other Center buildings. Construction is expected during the summer of 1986.

The Center has official searches for two important positions. Interviews have begun for the Curator of Plant Collections. This position would have overall responsibility for maintenance of the collections in the Washington Park Arboretum, and development of the Research Arboretum at Union Bay. The Curator will oversee plant records, and will be an important resource person on questions about horticultural plants for the greater Seattle community, as well as the Center.

The second position is Assistant Professor of Urban Ecology, the first such position in Western America, and perhaps all of the United States. This person will develop a graduate research program on the ecology of landscape plantings, interactions among plants, and community ecology approaches to natural areas within cities. Close contacts will be made with personnel in landscape architecture, botanical ecology, and forestry.





## NEW FRIENDS FOR THE DRUG PLANT GARDEN

Kathy Mendelson, Kirkland, Washington

Note: When the Drug Plant Garden was cut from the University's budget in 1979, there was some talk of starting a Friends group to save the garden. Between then and now, several people became involved in the project, including The Honorable George Benson, Seattle City Councilman, Dr. Arthur R. Kruckeberg, UW Department of Botany Professor, and Anna Zeigler, Assistant Curator of the Botany Herbarium. Through the efforts of these and other people, the Friends was founded early summer of 1984. Since then, the Drug Plant Garden was renamed the Medicinal Herb Garden, and the Friends started a number of projects, from basic maintenance to fund raising to planning the garden's future. The article that follows is, in large part, the text of a brochure published to introduce the Friends.

### Seventy Years of Service

The University of Washington Medicinal Herb Garden, a living sanctuary of useful plants, is located in Seattle in the heart of the University campus. With the oldest and largest collection of medicinal plants in the Pacific Northwest, the garden has served the community for over 70 years. Now, the garden faces a severe budget crisis. In response, the Friends of the Medicinal Herb Garden has been formed to restore, develop, and promote the garden.

The Medicinal Herb Garden serves the University and the Northwest community in many ways. The garden is used in training students in botany, landscape architecture, and urban horticulture. It is also used to provide public education in the uses of herbaceous plants as ornaments in the garden, as herbs for domestic use, and as traditional medicines. Furthermore, the garden serves an aesthetic roll -- it is a source of beauty and serenity within the busy urban scene around it.

The University of Washington Medicinal Herb Garden is part of an ancient tradition in western civilization. Variously known as herb gardens, physic gardens or medicinal gardens, they have been part of our cultural heritage since ancient times. Many of the older ones, especially in Europe, thrive today. But such gardens are a rarity in North America, especially on the West Coast.

### The Budget Crisis

Known internationally for over 70 years, the Medicinal Herb Garden has maintained a diversified collection of medicinal and other useful plants. Composed of many rectangular beds and plantings of trees and shrubs, the garden covers a total area of two acres. The University is committed to preserving the present convivial setting for the garden as open space in perpetuity. But, at present, there are no University funds to maintain the gardens. In 1979, severe budget cuts eliminated all staff responsible for the garden. Since then, a bare, custodial effort and volunteer help have been keeping the garden alive.

## Introducing the Friends

Now, a new group has been formed to restore the garden, develop it to its full potential, and provide services to the public. Named the Friends of the University of Washington Medicinal Herb Garden, this broad-based group is composed of educators and students, pharmacists, herbalists, garden enthusiasts, and others.

As the Friends of the Medicinal Herb Garden, we are excited about restoring the garden to its former excellence. We hope to enhance and diversify the collection and improve the garden's surroundings. Our goal is to serve the University community and the people of the Northwest through a botanical garden devoted to a rich diversity of useful herbaceous plants. The restored garden will display perennial herbs and be the focal point for developing an educational program for University classes and the public.

## Since the Beginning

Since the Friends was founded, we have made substantial progress towards revitalizing the garden. Work parties this summer and fall focused on a general clean-up, pulling weeds, staking perennials, and the like. The plant collection was inventoried. Seed was collected and cleaned in preparation of reviving the seed exchange. Two plant information sheets, the first a series exploring the medicinal properties of garden species, were published.

In addition, we started formulating a long-range plan for the garden. Many of the frames supporting the individual beds are badly weathered and need to be replaced. As long as repair work is required, we are studying how to make the garden better. We would, for example, like to make the garden handicapped accessible. We are also exploring ways to rearrange the plant collection. Whatever changes occur, we hope to retain a large and diverse collection of medicinal plants.

Much work remains. We would like to organize a herb day with tours and workshops, publish an Index Seminar, label the plant collection, and document the garden's history. We are also responsible for raising all funds for general maintenance and special projects.

If you have ideas about the garden, we would like to talk with you. If you would like to volunteer, we can match your skills and interests to a wide variety of tasks that need to be done. Please contact Carla Okigwe, Steering Committee Chair, Friends of the Medicinal Herb Garden, Department of Botany KB-15, Seattle, Washington 98195, or phone (206) 543-1682.





## HERBAL SOAPS

JoEllen VanDeMark

Mention "herbs" and most people immediately think of teas, food recipes, tonics, potpourris, sachets, companion planting, insect repellents, perhaps dyeing and cosmetics. A few will think of candles, incense, and soapmaking. Yet, these last three items can rejuvenate the spirit, set an atmosphere, or change a mood with the same ease that some people associate only with a cup of tea. Given a choice, a warm soak with a refreshing bar of soap will do much to set the world right.

In a day of "ases," "esters," "phates," "oxides," etc., it is not always easy to find that "refreshing bar of soap." With a few utensils, an afternoon, a knowledge of personal preferences, and creativity, you can make your own rejuvenating bars.

The utensils include: one or more wooden spoons, granite ware or iron kettle, various molds (plastic tubs, paper cartons, tin cans, shaving mugs, salad molds, glass pans, etc.), plastic wrap, and wax paper.

A few tips for success: (1) Lye reacts with some metals, so do not use aluminum pans. Granite or iron ware really is the best. (2) Use clean non-rancid fat. Render fat by filling a pan with several inches of hot water, add finely cut-up fat, cook over medium heat, stirring occasionally until the fat is melted. Strain the mixture to remove the impurities. Allow to cool, then remove the lard (swine) or tallow (cows). (3) Do not age soap in cold drafts, as it turns the soap flinty (rock hard). (4) Keep the molds at a 1-1/2 inch level -- thin soap curls while drying; thick soap is difficult to hold. (5) Aging does, indeed, improve soaps.

The basic ingredients are simple -- fat and lye. From there, one can add herbal lathering agents (saponins), fragrances, colors, even texture (ground spices or nuts are skin clearing aids).

The saponins are herbs which lather when added to water. They are marvelous for cleaning delicate clothing; in particular, they add shine to silks. The ground, dried root portions of Soapwort (*Saponaria ocymoids* or *officinalis*), Spanish Bayonet (*Yucca aloifolia*), Saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*), and Buffalo Ground Root (*Cucurbita foetidissima*) lather nicely. The ground portions of raw gourds of Buffalo Ground Root, bulb heart of Soap Plant (*Chlorogalum pomeridianum*), flower heads of Sweet Pepper Bush (*Clethra alnifolia*), papaya leaves, or even extract of fresh Ceanothus flowers will suds.

Herbs add fragrance, as well as other beneficial qualities. The herbal oils will scent the bars of soap for the longest period of time; however, scented waters or ground herbs and spices will also suffice. Here is a tried and true list of some fragrances with any additional qualities listed after each name: cinnamon -- slight coloring properties; citronella -- lemon scent; cloves -- clean scent often used for shaving soaps; lavender -- helpful with acne; lemon grass; olive oil -- not an herb but good for dry skin; patchouli -- deodorant aid; rose -- helps remove soreness and smooth wrinkles;



rosemary -- skin firmer and freshener; sandalwood -- astringent; sassafras -- coloring; scented geraniums -- astringents; and thyme -- deodorant aid. These may be used alone or in combination according to your preferences.

If you want to add colors to your soaps, you may add strongly brewed teas (Sassafras adds rich reddish-brown tones), clear fruit juices (grape creates a lavender shade), plant dyes (goldenrod gives a lovely yellow cast), or the ground herbs and spices will add flecks of color to your ivory or tan soap.

For those who live "life-in-the-fast-lane," you can take leftover scraps or cut-up bars of unscented castile or glycerin soaps, melt them with a little hot water over low heat, add your scents (one tablespoon or however strong you like it), pour the liquid into greased mold(s), cover with plastic wrap, harden for one day, remove from mold(s), cut into bars if necessary, and age for two weeks on wax paper.

Now, for the person who wants to brew from scratch but doesn't want a whole closet of this-was-a-mistake-but-four-pounds-of-lard-isn't-cheap, measure one-half cup of lard (tallow) in pan, melt over low heat. In another container, measure one-fourth cup cold water, add one tablespoon of lye, stirring to dissolve. Slowly, while stirring, add lye to fat. Continue stirring until consistency of butterscotch pudding. Add one tablespoon of herbs of whatever strength you desire. Mix well. Pour into greased mold(s), cover with plastic wrap, harden one day, remove from mold(s). Age for two weeks on wax paper.

After the experiments are finished and you have a sound formula, here's a recipe for a whole batch. Heat six pounds of lard (tallow) in a kettle. In a separate pan, stir together 13 ounces of lye and five cups of cold water; heat to 90°. Slowly pour lye solution into melted fat, stirring continually. Simmer until thick enough to hold its shape (about 30 minutes). Add scents, color, sudsing agents, etc. -- two tablespoons to one-fourth cup. Pour into greased molds or pans. Cure overnight. Remove from pans; cut if necessary. Age for two weeks.

For soap that "floats," fold air into the mixture as you would fold beaten egg whites into a cake before pouring into mold(s).

Shaving soap is made the same way with one tablespoon powdered clove, sage, or whatever scent you like. You can substitute one-fourth teaspoon scented oil. Age only one week.



### Directory of Herbs

Basil - *Ocimum basilicum*  
 Catnip - *Nepeta cataria*  
 Cayenne pepper - *Capsicum annum*  
 Clover - *Trifolium*  
 Cloves - *Syzygium aromaticum*  
 Eucalyptus - *Eucalyptus*  
 Feverfew - *Chrysanthemum parthenium*  
 Garlic - *Allium sativum*  
 Lavender - *Lavandula*  
 Pennyroyal - *Mentha peugium*  
 Pyrethrum - *Pyrethrum roseum* or *Chrysanthemum coccineum*  
 Rosemary - *Rosmarinus officinalis*  
 Santolina - *Santolina*  
 Sassafras - *Sassafras albidum*  
 Spearmint - *Mentha spicata*  
 Stinging nettle - *Urtica*  
 Tansy - *Tanacetum vulgare*  
 Woodruff - *Galium odoratum*  
 Wormwood - *Artemisia absinthium*



Fig. 1. Soapwort



Fig. 2. Tansy  
*Tanacetum vulgare*



# USING HERBS TO FREE YOUR HOME OF UNWANTED PESTS

53

Carolyn Rawe

Herbs may be used throughout your home and garden to make your life more pleasant and comfortable. For centuries, man has used herbs as an insect repellent and deterrent in his home, on his pets and on himself. Moths, flies, mosquitoes, slugs, snails, fleas, ants and even rats may be encouraged to leave your place of residence and find a more attractive environment. You can make your pet more comfortable with the use of herbs by not only ridding him of unwelcome guests, but also by discouraging him from becoming a pest himself.

## Ants

Ants may be encouraged to make new trails elsewhere if you place crushed catnip on their trails.

Planting of tansy by your entrys will discourage ants from entering your home. Or crushed tansy and wormwood sprinkled close to the entry will also discourage the friendly ant.

## Fleas

Fleas don't like the odor of pennyroyal, mint or sassafras. Boil a good quantity of these herbs in water and wash your favorite pet in the cooled liquid.

Soak pieces of heavy cord or clothesline rope in oil of pennyroyal to make flea collars. This collar should be replaced every two weeks. (Do not use solid rope on cats, as they may choke themselves.)

Hang a bunch of pennyroyal in the dog house.

Make a pillow of camomile flowers for your pet's bed. Pennyroyal may also be added to this pillow bed.

When my family lived in San Mateo, California, my mother would put fresh eucalyptus leaves under our carpets to deter fleas and ants.

## Flies

Plant basil in the house, patio, or outdoor picnic area to rid yourself of pesky flies. This is also effective against mosquitoes.

Tansy and mint may also be planted by your entryways to discourage flies.

Attractive sachets may be made of equal parts of clover flowers, broken bay leaves, crushed cloves and eucalyptus leaves and hung just inside your doors and windows.

General insect control

Powdered pyrethrum may be placed in sachet bags throughout your house for general insect control. Feverfew will also be effective.

Mosquitoes

For mosquito protection, try rubbing your body with pennyroyal or one of the following mixtures:

3 parts lavender oil  
3 parts pennyroyal  
1 part pure grain alcohol

or

1 pint citronella oil  
1/3 pint pure grain alcohol

Mix either of the recipes thoroughly and dab on your skin.

Moths

Sachets may be made from the following herbs to protect your clothing from moths:

Rosemary  
Wormwood  
Woodruff  
Sassafras root

Combine any two of the above herbs in equal parts with lavender, santolina or tansy. Stuff small pillows with the herb mixture and place among sweaters, woolens or furs.

For a more fragrant sachet, use 1/4 cup each lemon peel, crushed cloves, lavender, spearmint, and tansy. Place in bags among your clothing.

For men's clothing, you may want to use equal parts of cedar wood shavings and ground sassafras root.

You may want to make a paraffin bar to place in your closet or drawers.

1 ounce of melted paraffin  
1 T heliotrop oil  
1/4 t. bergamot oil  
1/8 t. clove oil

Heat paraffin to melting point, remove from heat, add oils. Pour into a flat enamel or wooden pan. When cool, cut into small bars.

Pet deterrent

To keep your favorite pet or your neighbor's pet out of your garden, plant borders of wormwood. Wormwood also makes an attractive background plant.



### Slugs and snails

Oak leaves or shredded oak bark, dried rosemary leaves and dried stinging nettle sprinkled on the ground will help keep slugs and snails away. To gather nettles, wear rubber gloves and a long-sleeved shirt.

### Last but not least

To protect your herbs themselves from unwanted pests, some people recommend a soapy water spray or a high-powered water spray. I would not suggest either of these methods, as your herb may pick up the taste of the soap or you may accidentally damage the foliage or even break a plant with a strong spray.

If your herbs do show signs of insects, try the following spray:

2 cloves garlic  
dash cayenne pepper  
1/2 cup of water or cider vinegar  
a little basil leaf

Put all four ingredients in your blender and mix thoroughly. Pour mixture through cheesecloth. Pour into mister and spray your affected herbs. Don't forget to get under the leaves.

In compiling this list of herbs to use in your home, I have tried to use herbs that can be grown in the Puget Sound area. The oils that are included in the recipes may be acquired at a pharmacy.



Fig. 3. Common Wormwood  
*Artemisia absinthium*



Fig. 4. Great Mountain  
Garlic



Fig. 5. *Calochortus macrocarpus*

Jean Witt



## NOHS NURSERY SNOOPER

Pat Bender, Seattle, Washington

MSK Rare Plant Nursery

Once again, your intrepid Nursery Snooper has taken recorder in hand (and cash in purse) for an exciting nursery experience. This time, I visited one of my favorite places -- MSK Rare Plant Nursery in the northwest section of Seattle. As owner, manager, chief propagator, seedswoman, plant hunter and hard worker, Mareen Kruckeberg has made her nursery a mecca for those who value the rare and unusual.

Her story reads like a June Allyson movie: Girl coed in botany department of large university meets and falls in love with her professor, Art Kruckeberg. They marry and live happily ever after doing what they like most: spending their free time on their four-acre garden cum nursery. They have always been active in local plant societies (Art was the first president of the Washington Native Plant Society), but lately they have gone further afield. Their most recent trip together was to South Africa and New Zealand. Mareen has also visited England, gardens in Eastern United States and Costa Rica, collecting plant materials. She also teaches botanical drawing and has illustrations appearing in many plant journals and books.

Mareen prefers growing plants from seed (indeed, for many of the unusual plants, that is the only source for propagation), but also propagates unusual cultivars from cuttings and grows ferns from spores. Other special interests are evergreen oaks and azaleas. Although she enjoys and has many rhododendrons, she feels that they are overused and that we neglect many other evergreen shrubs which would relieve the monotony of too many rhododendrons. Consider instead *Quercus sadleriana* (with wonderful, abundant acorns), *Quercus vaccinifolia* (for smaller areas), *Maytenus boaria* (a willow-like tree with less invasive habits) and *Trochodendron* (which not only is Japanese, but looks it).

For milder gardens, consider *Embothrium* (with SPECTACULAR orange-red blooms beloved by hummingbirds) and *Eucryphia* (with white, camellia-like blooms late in the season, and shiny evergreen foliage). Or be the first on your block to own a rare mutant form of the tanbark oak, *Lithocarpus densiflora* f. *attenuato-dentatus*. What an attention-getter this is!

Lest we forget our deciduous friends (or leaf-losing, as they are called by the New Illustrated Encyclopedia of Gardening), consider the oh-so-rare alder, *Ulmus glutinosa* v. *imperialis*. Is this an alder with the beautiful notched leaves? Yes, it is. It is from England, and everyone (including me) wants one, but there are not enough to go around yet. Mareen is still experimenting with the best way to propagate it, as well as other difficult plants. She has found that cuttings are more successful grown in a mixture of only pumice and sand. I was amazed at the growth of only recently struck cuttings. (The pumice can be obtained at Basset Western in Woodinville.) She also uses the pumice in combination with cinders, sand and grit in her outdoor alpine beds. For plants which need especially dry conditions, Art and Mareen have built a tufa wall with sun-loving plants on the south and ferns which

need dry shade on the north side. Mareen advises burying a tufa rock part way in the alpine bed and planting against the tufa -- many alpine plants love this arrangement and will cosy right up.

Container growing is another of the nursery's specialities. Clients may bring in their favorite containers and pick out the plants, or Mareen can choose both for them. Her groupings are a work of art -- no petunias in milk cans here. There is a Devil's Club looking very spiffy and sophisticated in a container, and a *Trochodendron*, which, because of its small root system, grows nicely in a confined space.

So you have now decided that MSK Nursery is THE PLACE TO GO. What, especially, should you look for? My favorites include the great variety of unusual ferns, the evergreen oaks, rodgersias, Himalayan *Podophyllum* (much showier than our native one), *Gunnera*, *Kirengeshoma palmata* ("A unique plant of great beauty, thriving in a deep soil where moisture is not far away..... Leaves of clear green, broad and angled like a plane's.....In September the sprays of cool yellow, crystalline-textured, shuttlecock flowers are produced. There is nothing like it." And it thrives in shade. How many of these are there?), *Philadelphus microphyllus* (at three to four feet, a minor size with a major pineapple fragrance), small *vacciniums*, unusual *viburnums*, *Zauschneria californica*, *Salix magnifica*, *Paeonia lutea*, *Nothofagus dombii*, *Sycopsis sinensis* (an evergreen member of the *Hamamelidaceae*), and on, and on, and on.

Mareen is a very busy woman, so it is best to call the nursery first and make an appointment to be sure it is open. The address is:

MSK Rare Plant Nursery  
20066 - 15th Northwest  
Seattle, Washington 98177  
Telephone: (206) 546-1281

Happy plant hunting!



Fig. 6. *Hamamelis Mollis*

Mareen S. Kruckeberg

(see page 59)



# SHRUBS THAT MERIT ATTENTION

59

Mrs. Paul Sayre, Gig Harbor, Washington

Don't you grow anything but rhododendrons?

A visitor asked this embarrassing question after driving through one of our suburbs. Every yard had a display of one or two of these plants and usually more. For a good reason: they are easy to grow; require small amount of maintenance; and are attractive year around.

There is more to life in the Pacific Northwest than growing rhododendrons. There are other small shrubs that merit our attention. Hopefully, if we display some of these worthy specimens, more variety may appear around us as others are captured by their uniqueness.

A small tree that could be grown on any city lot is *Styrax japonica*. Presenting year-around interest with fragrant spring flowers, fine leaf shape in summer, and in winter its bare branches usually hold green bell-shaped seeds creating an unusually decorated Christmas tree. During the winter rains, these bells are so shaped that drops of water cling and glisten like rare crystal.

Another tree that is neglected for small door-yard planting is the *Clerodendron trichotomum*, also with fragrance at the beginning of summer. Its leaves intrigue visitors when you call it the "peanut butter tree"! and invite them to crush the leaves in their hands. Watch their amazed expressions when they smell peanut butter from the leaves. This tree holds interest in the winter when the seed pods spring open and reveal royal blue and bright red to decorate the tree for Christmas.

In a smaller class are the shrubs, *Callicarpa* among the first and easiest to grow. While our Canadian friends dearly love this gem, we neighbors, south of the border, seem to neglect its year-around use. A pleasing leaf shape during the summer, the leaves turn unusual shades of purple during the fall when everything else seems bathed in gold. For the winter, the purple berries still make this bush an eyecatcher. It is also kept well pruned by flower arrangers who find it good plant material at any time of year.

*Hamamelis mollis* truly is fat and one needs a wide area to enjoy this shrub. However, in early Spring a bare branch arrangement of this shrub's unique contorted blossoms will provide relief from those tiring arrangements of daffodils we do every Spring. Fall finds this fat girl clothed in deep gold with tinges of orange upon her leaves.

Year-around spice may always be provided by the *Elaeagnus variegata*. This bright green leaf striped in yellow is an exclamation mark in any spot of the garden all year around. A sturdy bush will grow over six feet high if encouraged.

There are many more shrubs and even perennials that could be added to this list. The point being, grow some unusual ones and encourage visitors to your garden to try their hands at branching out.....we need variety in our Pacific Northwest!



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60

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BOOK REVIEWS: PLANT HUNTING IN NEPAL, Roy Lancaster, Timber Press, 194 pp., 20 color photos, 41 line drawings, 6x9½, hard bound, \$19.95.

To quote the book jacket, Roy Lancaster is a "freelance garden consultant, plantsman, lecturer and plant explorer.....A former curator of the Hillier Arboretum, he played a major part in the compilation of Hilliers' Manual of Trees and Shrubs. The book tells of his participation in a three-month plant hunting expedition through East Nepal "collecting seed of plants suitable for cultivation in Western gardens."

It is mostly a tale of plants seen, plants collected, hardships endured, weather encountered, and natives met. The author's wit and ability saves the book from being a mere "and then we saw" list of plants, but it lacks the cliff-hanging qualities of earlier tales. Being nibbled by tigers and nasty natives tends to lend excitement to early plant exploration.

The illustrations are impressive (a bright red *Meconopsis napaulensis* and the snowball plant are especially attractive). The author has included a useful plant index and glossary, and a numerical seed collection list, usable only if you have numbered seed to identify.

I would recommend buying this book if you are particularly interested in the region and its plants, or planning a journey of your own. If not, take it out of the library.

Pat Bender

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THE KEW FIVE-YEAR GARDENER'S DIARY, by the Royal Botanic Garden's Kew; 304 pages, 148 illustrations, 31 full-page, full-color reproductions from Curtis' Botanical Magazine; Published in the United States by Capability's Books, Box 114, Deer Park, WI 54007; Hardcover. Price \$29.95.

Every keen gardener who finds it useful to keep records will be delighted to discover the Kew Five-Year Gardener's Diary. It is hardbound in dark red simulated leather with gold embossing and generously illustrated by 117 line drawings by Christine Grey-Wilson, and 31 beautiful full-page color reproductions from Curtis' Botanical Magazine. The text accompanying each illustration is by Christopher Grey-Wilson, senior plant taxonomist at Kew Gardens in England.

One opens the journal to a full-page color illustration of *Daphne bholua*, by Margaret Stones (Bot. Mag. n.s.t. 681, 1974); under Frontispiece will be found a concise but informative descriptive paragraph. The striking quality of the color reproductions continues throughout, with this writer's favorite on page 18, the lovely soft blue *Crocus baytopiorum*, "not very common in cultivation", by Mary Grierson (Bot. Mag. n.s.t. 664, 1974).

Included is an introduction by Christopher Grey-Wilson, detailing the usefulness of such a method of record keeping; calendars for 1984 through 1993, a Northern Hemisphere climatic chart with average monthly temperature in F. and C., average monthly rainfall in inches, mm and cm; and an index to botanical and common names of plants illustrated and described.

62 This is a journal that can be begun any day of any week of any year, and continue from that point through a five-year period. The first full page begins with the week of January 1 through 7, 19\_\_, to be filled in, and the next four pages, January 1 through 7, 19\_\_, so that the notes can be easily compared by day over a five-year period. Even after five years, the information will be useful for many years to come.

What a thoughtful gift for you, the special gardening member of the family or friend, for any occasion, any time of the year. Besides its usefulness, it will be an attractive addition to anyone's home library, among the most treasured gardening books.

Sallie D. Allen

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FUCHSIAS IN AUSTRALIA, by Lesley Butler, Timber Press, Portland, Oregon, July, 1985, 160 pp., 5"x8", illustrations: 18 lines, color plates: 221, Price: \$15.00.

First of all, I must commend Lesley Butler for the outstanding photography presented in the 221 color plates in her book. The photography is, by far, some of the best I have ever seen.

Lesley Butler has started her book with an excellent glossary of terms, of which you do not normally find in most fuchsia culture books. The glossary is very complete in layman's language that is understandable by most fuchsia enthusiasts.

The first few chapters of her book covers the history of how fuchsias were introduced into Australia. It also covers topographical areas of Australia where fuchsias are grown, and their climatic conditions. She also reviews extensively the new and old hybrids, their colors, habitat of growth, and has listed the names of various fuchsias that are recommended for cultivation into baskets, standards, hedges, bush, espalier, borders and tubs. She has also covered the basics of propagation, training, pruning, soil, diseases, and maintenance. The one thing she did not cover to great extent is how to winter fuchsias, of which is of the utmost importance to most fuchsia enthusiasts.

Her book also includes a section on fuchsia species, of which, seven out of the nine known sections were reviewed. This is surprising, due to the fact that the nine sections of fuchsia species were printed in the annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden Studies in Fuchsias, printed in 1982.

The balance of ninety-some pages is dedicated to descriptions and 221 color plates of some of the fuchsias that are grown in Australia, New Zealand, England, and United States.

Fuchsias in Australia would be a good addition for those fuchsia enthusiasts who wish to add to their library of fuchsia culture.

Kaaren M. Benson  
Northwest Fuchsia Society

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DICTIONARY OF PLANT NAMES, by Allen J. Coombs, Timber Press, 9999 S.W. Wilshire, Portland, Oregon 97225, 1985; 207 pages, 5"x7½" Hardbound. Price \$9.95.

Gardeners, if you have been struggling with trying to learn the scientific names of your plants, the Dictionary of Plant Names, "The pronunciation, derivation and meaning of botanical names, and their common-name equivalents," is the book you have been waiting for. Learning the meaning of botanical names and their derivation makes the educational process so much easier and much more interesting. Within this new guide, you will find a wealth of fascinating information on plantsmen, history, places and plant lore, the things you want to know about the plant material in your garden.

Do not overlook the introduction by author-botanist, Allen J. Coombs, as he explains in an easy-to-understand manner how plants are named and how to use the book. The following two pages cover "suggested pronunciation" as applies to this guide, which is helpful but many may take exception to. However, the author states, "Unlike the use of scientific names, their pronunciation is not governed by rules," (or rules that everyone agrees upon). One has only to attend an international botanical congress, horticultural or specialized garden-related conference to realize how many ways that there are to pronounce a botanical name. The important thing is that we all are able to understand one another and communicate through a universal scientific language.

This is a short two-page glossary of technical terms used throughout for the purpose of brevity and accuracy.

Common names are listed with reference to the appropriate botanical name. For example:

Twin Flower see *Linnaea borealis*.

*Linnaea* lin-ie-a Caprifoliaceae. After Linnaeus (1707-78), who popularized the binomial system of naming plants, i.e., using one name for the genus and one for species. Evergreen sub-shrub.

*borealis* bo-ree-ah-lis. Northern. Twinflower. Northerly latitudes of the N. Hemisphere.

The Dictionary of Plant Names is a book every gardener should have. Once you get in the habit of referring to it, you will find it the most useful book in your reference library.

Sallie D. Allen



Wanted: This is the second season that I have been searching for a plant of *Leucothoe keiskii* to add to my collection. If anyone could help me out or even lead me in the right direction, I would be eternally grateful.

Eleanor Friedlander  
6 Baldwin Circle  
Weston, Massachusetts 02193



# Tidbits

by Ladybug



Hardiness and just what came through our unusual winter is on everyone's mind at the moment. Roots of a plant are the most tender part of it, and I think most people do not realize this fact. The depth of the roots and the amount of moisture in the soil will have a great amount of influence on just what survived our past freezes. The stem, of course, is the most hardy. Most gardeners are going to think that those green stems are an indication of survival and it will not be until late spring that they will realize the plant has gone, when the green stem turns to brown and cannot put out green leaves.

Mrs. Paul Sayre  
Gig Harbor, Washington



The record-breaking rain storm last weekend caused slides, flooding and damage throughout the Pacific Northwest. Although the soil seems saturated in many places, in others it ran off before it could penetrate the soil deeply. If you have large conifers and broad-leaved evergreens on your property, it would be wise to dig down at their base to see just how deeply the water has penetrated; you may be as surprised as I was to find that four inches down the soil is bone dry. For this reason, it is now in January that I have gotten out the hoses and am watering!

Betty Miller  
Seattle, Washington



HELP WANTED! Members, your Editor needs you! Writers, artists, proof-readers and gardeners, share your talents and practical experiences with the rest of us. A HOW TO paragraph for inclusion in the TIDBIT section takes only a few minutes to write and is always welcome. Send your contributions to Sallie Allen or call me at 363-3189 to offer your assistance, talents, and suggestions for future articles in Horticulture Northwest. This is YOUR Horticultural Society and YOUR Journal. Let me hear from you.

Daphne mezereum, years ago was an early springtime shrub found in almost every home garden, but in recent years it has been hard to find. Seed was received and planted in early fall, but so far . . . no germination. It was helpful to learn recently that it takes seed of D. mezereum two years to germinate. Is this true of all Daphne species?

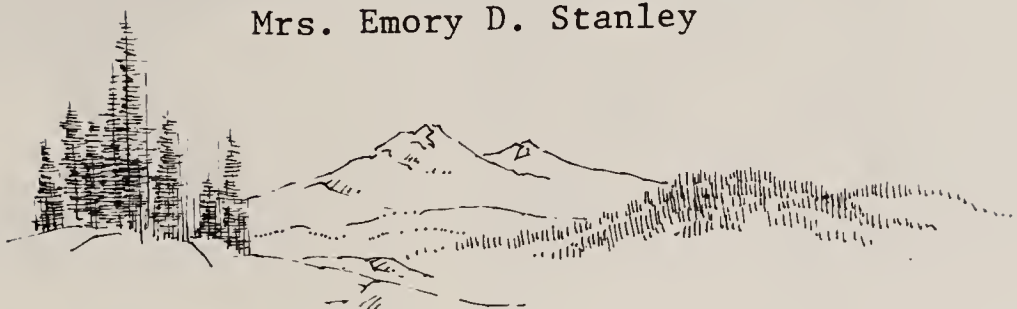
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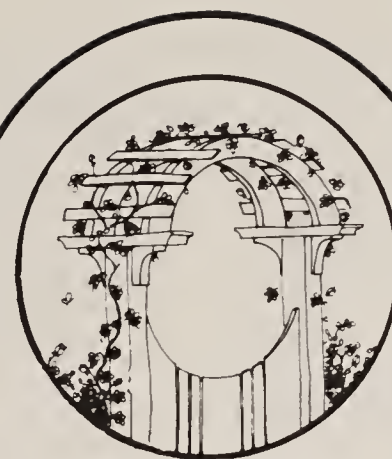


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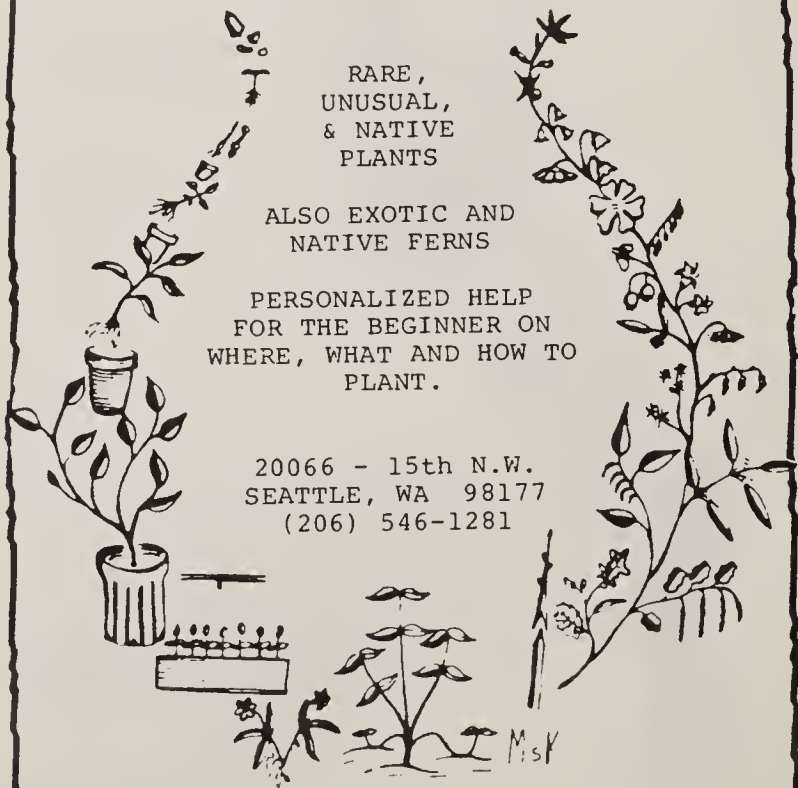
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